

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for mapping intellectual property, comprising:

searching one or more remote databases for one or more relevant patents; and  
performing a network analysis on the relevant patents and displaying one or more patents.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising

receiving as a query one or more keywords or assignees to be searched;  
searching the query in Issued Patent or Published Application databases;  
retrieving cited prior art patents for each patent found in search results;  
updating the query by adding assignees from the cited prior art patents; and  
running a second search using the updated query.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

for each patent, creating spring relationship among patents based on number of citation of patent prior art; and  
generating a spring mass diagram.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising clusterizing patents according to word similarity.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a visualization of the patents for display on a screen or plotting on a large format plotter.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising three-dimensionally visualizing the patents on a 3D display device.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising allowing a user to review the search result and revise the query.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising caching results from prior IP maps in a remote computer.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising retrieving a cached IP map in response to a user request.
10. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising periodically flushing cached IP maps to ensure a fresh IP map.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising distributing a search over a plurality of client computers.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein one of the client computers is located behind a firewall, further comprising bypassing the firewall in sending distributed search results to a remote computer.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising annotating a patent at a local computer and caching the annotated patent at a remote computer to satisfy a subsequent request for said patent.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for mapping intellectual property, comprising:

- (a) receiving as a query one or more keywords or assignees to be searched;
- (b) searching the query in Issued Patent or Published Application databases;
- (c) retrieving cited prior art for each patent found as search results;
- (d) updating the query by adding assignees from the cited prior art; ~~and~~
- (e) iteratively repeating (b)-(d) using the updated query; and
- (f) displaying the intellectual property.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising network analyzing the search results.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented system for mapping intellectual property, comprising:

means for searching one or more remote databases for one or more relevant patents; and

means for performing a network analysis on the relevant patents and displaying one or more patents.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, further comprising means for generating a computer-readable intellectual property mapping file.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the IP mapping file comprises:

a collection of patent documents, each having one or more links embedded in the first portion referencing one or more external documents viewable using a viewer application; and one or more links embedded in the third portion referencing information contained in the second portion; and

links generated by a network analysis of relationships among the patent documents.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable media, executable by a processor, containing executable computer program instructions ~~which when executed on a digital processing system causes the system to perform a method comprising:~~

code to receive receiving as a query one or more keywords or assignees to be searched;

code to search the query in Issued Patent or Published Application databases;

code to retrieve retrieving cited prior art patents for each patent found in search results;

code to update updating the query by adding assignees from the cited prior art patents;

code to run a second search using the updated query; and and

code to performing a network analysis on the a search results and to display the search result.

20. (Currently Amended) The media of claim 19, further comprising code ~~instructions~~ to distribute the processing over a plurality of computers.